



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO MEXICAN NATIONALS PLEAD GUILTY TO THEIR ROLE IN METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Mexican nationals, one living in Kansas City, Mo., and the other living in Belton, Mo., pleaded guilty in federal court today to their role in a methamphetamine conspiracy.

Cosme D. Minjarez-Rojas, 32, a Mexican national living in Belton, and **Gabriela Beltran**, 28, a Mexican national living in Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning.

By pleading guilty, **Minjarez-Rojas** admitted that he conspired to distribute between 500 grams and 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine between Aug. 1 and 17, 2004.

By pleading guilty, **Beltran** admitted that she aided and abetted others in possessing with intent to distribute five grams or more of methamphetamine on Feb. 19, 2003.

A third co-defendant also has pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy.

On Feb. 28, 2005, **Genero R. Andrade**, 33, a citizen of Mexico living in the Kansas City area, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute between 500 grams and 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine between Aug. 1 and 17, 2004.

The co-defendants were originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 8, 2004, in Kansas City.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Minjarez-Rojas** and **Andrade** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life in prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$4 million. **Beltran** may be subject to a mandatory

minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$2 million.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. The case was investigated by the Kansas City Metropolitan Drug Task Force and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow